

ROTHWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report by J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

75, London Road,
Kettering.

October, 1941.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the health of Rothwell for 1940.

As instructed in Ministry of Health circular 2067 the report is abridged and confined to essential matters only. A full report will be made covering the war period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year. In spite of the many extra duties imposed on the staff by war conditions I am pleased to report that the health and sanitary conditions of the District have maintained peace time standards.

Dr. Thomas O. Garland, your former Medical Officer of Health resigned during the year and I commenced duty on December 1st.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and help. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Council staff for the kind help I received on taking up the appointment.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics.

Area (acres) ...	...	3,638
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) ...	...	4,829
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940 according to Rate Books) ...	...	1,470
Rateable Value ...	...	£19,239
Sum represented by Penny Rate. ...	...	£72

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	67	36	31
Illegitimate ...	3	1	2
Totals.	70	37	33

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 14.49

STILL BIRTHS.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	2	1	1
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-
Totals.	2	1	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 27.77

DEATHS.

Total.	Males.	Females.
65	36	29

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population. Crude rate 13.46
Adjusted rate 12.78

Deaths from Puerperal causes	...	...	Nil.
Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age -			
Legitimate - 2 Males, 2 Females.	Illegitimate		Nil.
Death-rate of Infants per 1,000 live births...			57.14
Death-rate from measles (all ages)...	...		Nil.
Death-rate from whooping cough (all ages)	...		Nil.
Death-rate from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).			Nil.

The live birth rate has been the highest for the past eight years.

Deaths due to cancer.	...	...	...	8
Deaths from heart and circulatory causes.	...	...	...	26
Deaths due to suicide.	...	...	...	1

The death-rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population was 14.3; live birth rate per 1,000 population 14.6, and the still birth rate was 0.55.

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

The general provision of health services is similar to 1939.

SECTION C & E. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Inspection of Food.

Report by John Miles, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Water, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The water supply was adequate except during the period 13th October to 3rd November, when water was restricted from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily. All samples of water were found satisfactory when analysed.

The sewerage system and the sewage disposal works have both continued in satisfactory order.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

A total of 435 inspections were made during the year, and all nuisances detected were abated without recourse to statutory proceedings.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Slaughterhouses. The slaughterhouses in the area have not been used during the year. Slaughtering is carried out at Kettering.

Milk Supply. Of the 129 milk samples taken during the year, 94 were found good, 21 moderate and 14 bad when submitted to the Methylene Blue Test. Regular inspections of cowsheds and dairies were made.

SECTION D. Housing.

There is nothing of importance to report under housing matters. No houses were built during the year.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

Infectious diseases were as follows:-

Paratyphoid.....	3
Scarlet Fever.....	11
Measles.....	8

A paratyphoid outbreak took place in the district during the summer. The cause was traced and energetic measures were taken to control it. All cases were removed to hospital. Scarlet Fever - 10 cases were removed to hospital.

There were no deaths from infectious diseases in the Urban District during the year.

Tuberculosis.

The following cases were notified during the year:-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	6	2	8
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis....	-	1	1
			<hr/> 9 <hr/>

Deaths from Tuberculosis:-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	3	2	5
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis....	1	-	1
			<hr/> 6 <hr/>

The following figures show the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the end of 1940:-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	13	12	25
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis....	2	7	9
			<hr/> 34 <hr/>

RECEPTION OF EVACUEES.

In September, 1939, 714 evacuees came to the Urban District but, at the end of the year, only 252 remained.

In the Autumn of 1940, another influx of evacuees took place and, at the end of the year, the numbers were as follows:-

(1) Unaccompanied children billeted on householders.....	185
(2) Mothers with children:-	
Mothers.....	178
Children.....	222
(3) Teachers.....	11
(4) Other Adults.....	9
	<hr/> 605 <hr/>

A number of cases of scabies and impetigo have occurred amongst evacuated persons, and where satisfactory treatment in the billet has not been possible, the cases have been removed either to the County Council Institutions at Kettering and Oundle or to the Ministry of Health Hostel at Market Harborough.

There were a number of problems associated with the billeting of unaccompanied children, such as vermin infestation, bed-wetting and behaviour abnormality, and arrangements were made for the removal of particularly difficult cases to one of the County Hostels either at Burton Latimer, Rushden or Northampton.

